

Committee:	Date:
West Ham Park	July 2018
Subject: Park Manager's Update	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Parks and Gardens	For Information
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p>This report provides an update to Members of the West Ham Park Committee on management and operational activities at West Ham Park since February 2018.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report 	

Main Report

Budget and Personnel

1. The budget for West Ham Park is currently in line with anticipated expenditure for this time of year,
2. Staffing: The vacant support officer post has been filled by a temporary member of staff while recruitment takes place. A PR & Marketing apprentice started with the team in May and has already become an asset to the team, setting up an Instagram account for the park as well as sending out regular tweets regarding the park's activities and events. The vacant keeper post has been filled by a qualified groundsman who is joining the team from Hampstead Heath. Recruitment for the role of gardener and sports turf apprentice was unsuccessful. These posts will be put on hold until next spring when a full advertising campaign will take place along with visits to local high schools and colleges.

Community, Volunteering, Outreach and events

3. Wild East Project: The Explorers Map has been printed and has been circulated during the trike sessions and other events. The new Wild East officer has visited 17 community groups over the past three months and has engaged with 244 participants during outreach sessions in the park.
4. Wild Schools: 4,500 children have attended sessions since the beginning of the year, in total since the start of the project 8,500 students have attended sessions. The Wild Schools Officer, Friends of West Ham Park and the Park Manager have been in conversation with Crossrail to investigate the

possibility of having a mural or other artwork symbolising the park, created by local school children, displayed at Forest Gate and Maryland Stations in order to increase the profile of the park amongst local residents. Initial talks have been encouraging, however full approval and details are still to be agreed. The Wild schools officer has also led on the extension of the wildlife garden (see paragraph 7 below).

5. The Friends of West Ham Park have had a busy start to the year. On-going bird surveys carried out by the friends show that the populations of most species are stable, with increases in sightings of House Sparrows, Goldfinches and Green Woodpeckers. The Wildlife Garden working party has made valuable contributions to the existing garden removing bramble and other invasive species as well as planting native plants, and helping with the work required to extend the garden. The Botanical Drawing event took place during Open Garden Squares weekend and displayed drawings of plants from the Fothergill collection as well as information about the horticultural past of the park, botanical drawing and the history of the park and its connections with Fothergill. The friends were present on site over the weekend and held drawing and collage workshops with visitors and gave guided tours of the garden and the display. The event was well attended with positive comments being received about the display. Their Annual General Meeting was held on the bandstand in June with the current Chair and Deputy being re-elected. some new members have joined the group, one has offered to become involved and lead on the vegetable garden and is working with the Wild East Officer and Gardening Team Leader to rejuvenate the area.
6. Upcoming events
 - a. The friends have two bat walks coming up during the summer 23rd August and the 28th September.
 - b. The Bringing Communities Together event lead by Haf's academy will take place in the park on the 14th and 15th of July. Food stalls, fairground rides, community and multi-faith groups have signed up.

Operational activities

7. Wildlife Garden: The newly extended wildlife garden was opened by Sherriff Redcliffe during the committee visit to site in June. Volunteers from across the open spaces department along with 4 teams of corporate volunteers have assisted with building the dead hedge, installing log piles and planting trees in the garden.
8. Summer sports season is now underway. Cricket continues to be popular on site. West Ham and Stratford junior team have extended their training sessions to two evenings a week from one due to increased demand from local people. The park has also seen an increase in requests for evening cricket games. Tennis continues to grow during April and May the coaches doubled their hours on court with number attending adults and junior sessions continuing to grow. Coaches are now qualified to referee during tournaments and are holding a number of LTA competitions at the park.

Property Matters

9. Nursery update: The options review group met in February to review the concept designs for the three options that are being taken forward. They met again in May to consider the full options appraisal. During the Sheriff's and Members visit to site in June a summary of the proposals was also presented to those in attendance. It had been the intent to bring a progress report to this committee, however due to competition for funding from a number of other major projects, the report must firstly be considered by the Operational Property Group and Priorities Board so that the funding requirements can be considered against the City's Corporate plan Priorities and other funding bids. The outcome of this will support the next stages of the project focussing on the delivery strategy, before the detailed design is worked up.
10. Playground Project: In July 2017 approval was given for a redesign of the children's playground and water play facilities within West Ham Park. Three options have been explored:
 - a. Option 1: This option will have the shortest construction period and will replace any damaged/old play equipment and repair and retain the remaining existing pieces.
 - b. Option 2: This option will look to redesign the playground with a new water play facility and integrate more imaginative play as well as integrated play for all age groups.
 - c. Option 3: This option will look to redesign the playground with a new water play facility, play equipment whilst also expanding the playground with grassed areas and new entrances for ease of access.

Designs for each option and the types of equipment that they would contain have been developed and public consultation regarding these was launched on 23th June and will run until 21st July. Detailed information is displayed on the West Ham Park website, with a link to an online survey to capture people's comments. Face to face consultation events are also taking place when the project team will be on site to meet members of the public and answer their questions whilst capturing feedback about the designs.

11. Installation of additional CCTV at all gates across the park is almost completed. The new cameras have much better picture resolution and have already assisted in dealing with a number of incidents on site.

Appendices

- None

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